



## Today's Message

Date: November 10, 2013  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: *Living Where Satan Lives*

Text: Revelation 2:12–17 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

<sup>13</sup>“ ‘I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

<sup>14</sup>But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup>So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup>Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’

Introduction: Chapters two and three contain seven letters from Christ to *real* churches. The letters all follow a similar format. Christ evaluates each church, identifying its strengths and weaknesses. Next he offers counsel to help the church persevere. He concludes each with a promise. Churches in every generation exhibit the characteristics of the recipients of these letters and thus need Christ’s counsel.

**Today’s take-home truth: Those who persevere do not compromise with the culture because Christ despises evil.**

**I. Description of the Author: The glorified Christ is the ultimate Judge. 12**

- A. He comforts those who trust him . . .
- B. and threatens those who do not.

**II. Evaluation of the church: Christ knows all about the church's collision with culture. 13-15**

- A. He knew the church's strength when assaulted from without. 13
  - 1. Their home was a dangerous place . . .
  - 2. yet they clung to Christ in spite of the cost.
- B. He also knew the church's weakness when subverted from within. 14-15

**III. Counsel to the church: Christ commands the compromising church to repent. 16**

- A. Implication: The church must purge those who promote the world's values.
- B. Motivation: Christ himself threatens those who compromise with the world.

**IV. Promise to the church: To those who persevere, Christ will give joy beyond anything the world can offer. 17**

- A. He promises the delights of His kingdom.
- B. He promises the treasure of an inseparable relationship.